

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 SAA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
MCT-01 /084 W

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O R 031924Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3946
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI

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NSC FOR BRZEZINSKI

KKO. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.) IS US
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SUBJECT: REACTION TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

1. PRESS COVERAGE TODAY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS WAS
HEAVY BUT, REFLECTING THE LATE HOUR OF ITS DELIVERY, COMMENTARY
WAS RELATIVELY SPARCE. THERE WAS A GENERAL TONE OF
SATISFACTION IN THE REPORTING AND A HINT OF RELIEF AT THE
ABSENCE FROM THE SPEECH OF ANY RECRIMINATION. (IN RECENT

DAYS THE MEDIA HAD SEEMED APPREHENSIVE THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT CRITICIZE THE CABINET'S RESPONSE TWO WEEKS AGO TO THE AMERICAN QUESTIONS.) MUCH OF TODAY'S EDITORIALIZING CHOSE TO FOCUS (CRITICALLY) ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S JULY 1 REMARKS TO AMERICAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS.

2. ZAK IN MA'ARIV WROTE THAT "WALTER MONDALE'S SPEECH CAN HARDLY BE TAKEN AS AN EXPRESSION OF A CRISIS BETWEEN JERUSALEM -- THE CONTRARY IS THE CASE, MORE LIKELY...THE U.S. STATEMENT TO ISRAEL, AS CONVEYED LAST NIGHT BY THE AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENT, PROMISED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME...WALTER MONDALE CALMED US...(WITH HIS)...VERY FRIENDLY SPEECH..LAST NIGHT."

3. YEDIOT'S GUINEY CALLED THE SPEECH "THE CLEAREST PRESENTATION OF THE AMERICAN POSITION TOWARD ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE EVER UTTERED. IT HAS MANY ELEMENTS WHICH CAN GIVE THE ISRELI PUBLIC A SENSE OF SATISFACTION AND SECURITY. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, MANY ASPECTS WHICH TESTIFY TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BEGIN AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS."

4. THE JERUSALEM POST REPORTED THAT THE SPEECH WAS SEEN AS A FIRM RESTATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN POSITION FAVORING WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS IN RETURN FOR SECURITY AND PEACE. THE POST NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT MONDALE ALSO AFFIRMED THAT U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID WOULD NOT BE USED FOR PURPOSES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL LEVERAGE AND THAT ISRAEL ALONE COULD BE THE FINAL JUDGE OVER WHAT BOUNDARIES WERE NEGOTIABLE. (FOR OTHER PRESS REACTION TO THE SPEECH, SEE OUR TWO MEDIA REACTION CABLES FOR JULY 3 -- THE FIRST SENT FROM JERUSALEM AND THE SECOND FROM TEL AVIV.)

5. INTERVIEWED ON RADIO, SEVERAL POLITICIANS LAUDED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. OPPOSITION LEADER PERES SAID, "IT WAS A WELL PREPARED SPEECH." IF IT CONTAINED PRESSURE, THEN "IT IS MORAL PRESSURE AT THIS STAGE. ON THE CONTRARY, (THE VICE PRESIDENT) SAID THAT ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE LINKED TO ISRAELI RESPONSES, BUT OF COURSE THE HINT WAS CLEAR." PERES SURPRISINGLY ADDED, "I THINK THAT ALL SIDES WILL HAVE TO GO TO GENEVA. HOWEVER, ANOTHER EFFORT WILL BE MADE, BUT I DO NOT SEE AN EASY PATH AHEAD."

6. JUSTICE MINISTER TAMIR ENTONED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT DEALT WITH A LIST OF ISSUES IN A VERY CONCRETE MANNER." HE KNOWS WELL THAT THE ROAD TO PEACE IS LONG AND HARD, AND THAT WE HAVE TO TREAD IT." MK CHAIM KAUFMAN (LIKUD) STRUCK ONE OF THE FEW SOUR NOTES IN DISCUSSING THE SPEECH. "MY IMPRESSION

IS NOT VERY POSITIVE AND, IN MY OPINION, U.S. PRESSURE
STILL EXISTS. I EXPECTED A MORE MODERATE SPEECH."

7. FROM OUR OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH THOSE AT THE DINNER AND
WITH A SAMPLE OF THE MUCH WIDER AUDIENCE THAT WATCHED THE
SPEECH LIVE ON TELEVISION, THE GENERAL REACTION WAS HIGHLY
FAVORABLE. THE ISRAELIS WE TALKED TO REGARDED THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE AS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ELOQUENT

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DELIVERY OF A VERY CAREFULLY PREPARED ADDRESS. MANY COMMENTED ON THE DEEP PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND SINCERITY REFLECTED IN MR. MONDALE'S WORDS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEECH THAT SURPRISED HIS LISTENERS, SEVERAL POINTS WERE WARMLY RECIEVED INDEED, WHILE OTHERS PREDICTABLY WENT DOWN LESS WELL.

8. MOST OF OUR CONTACTS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL PRAISE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S UNQUALIFIED CONDEMNATION OF THE PLO'S TERRORISM, HIS SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT OF JEWS TO FREELY EMIGRATE, AND HIS STRONG EXPRESSION OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL BELIEVED THE REFERENCE TO 242'S REQUIRING WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS "A TOUGH STATEMENT," THEY WERE PLEASED THAT IT WAS EXPRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF A STRONG REEMPHASIS OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT WHILE ABJURING USE OF ECONOMIC OR MILITARY AID TO PRESSURE ISRAEL. IN FACT, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON SECURITY WAS APPROVINGLY MATCHED WITH BEGIN'S OWN CONCENTRATION ON SECURITY IN HIS REMARKS AS THE BASIS OF ISRAEL'S POSITIONS. THE PASSAGE THAT ELICITED RAISED EYEBROWS WAS THE EQUATION OF THE GOI'S OFFER OF WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI WITH WHAT COULD BE APPLIED TO THE WEST BANK. THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY REGISTERED CONCERN ON THIS POINT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW FOLLOWING THE ADDRESS RABIN ALLUDED TO THIS PASSAGE AS IMPLYING TOTAL WITHDRAWAL ON THE WEST BANK. THE VICE PRESIDENT THEN EXPLAINED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING THAT IN MAKING THE COMPARISON BETWEEN SINAI AND THE WEST BANK, HE WAS ONLY USING AN ANALOGY TO UNDERSCORE AN APPROACH OF SEPARATING TERRITORIAL ISSUES FROM SECURITY. THE EXPLANATION SEEMED TO SATISFY BEGIN, WHO HAD SEEN THE TEXT AS GIVING CREDENCE TO LABOR PARTY CHARGES THAT HIS OFFER TO RETURN ALL OF SINAI TO EGYPT WOULD INEVITABLY BE THE BLUE-PRINT FOR FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE OTHER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE PRESS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AGITATE THIS ISSUE FOR A DAY OR TWO, BUT THEN WILL PROBABLY PASS ON TO OTHER MATTERS. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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